

ACTORS OPEN CALL

We're casting for a new touring production that we're taking out on the road in 2021 and are looking to meet brilliant deaf and hearing actors for two roles.

ABOUT THE PLAY

A Paines Plough, Soho Theatre and Deafinitely Theatre production
SESSIONS by Ifeyinwa Frederick

'I like sex. Think I love football more. Sometimes I cry during it, as we know. The sex, not the football.' Tunde's 30th birthday is fast approaching. He's not where he thought he'd be. And he's not who he's supposed to be, at least according to his dad. You see, the Adeyemi men don't cry. But Tunde does. Interrogating the challenge of accepting our own vulnerabilities, SESSIONS by Ifeyinwa Frederick is a raw, funny, bittersweet deep-dive into the complexities of masculinity, depression and therapy.

SESSIONS will be performed in spoken English and British Sign Language.

DATES

London Rehearsals:	18 January – 13 February 2021
London Tech and Previews:	w/c 15 February 2021
London run:	22 February – 20 March 2021
Small-scale regional tour:	22 March – 08 May 2021

Due to changing circumstance regarding COVID-19 restrictions, these dates may be subject to change to the following:

London Rehearsals:	22 February – 20 March 2021
London Tech and Previews:	w/c 22 March 2021
Small-scale regional tour:	29 March – 08 May 2021
London run:	10 May – 05 June 2021

Please only apply if you are currently available for both sets of dates. Final production dates will be confirmed at audition stage

CHARACTER BREAKDOWN

Actors are invited to audition via self-tape for one of the two roles outlined below:

Role A

Playing age: 30

Gender: Male

Language: English (native/fluent). We are interested in casting someone in this role who also has British Sign Language skills, but this is not essential.

Ethnicity: Black British-Nigerian/West African

Description: Warm and charismatic, a joker. Active, popular and quick-witted. Seemingly very self-confident with a roguish charm, but hiding a sensitivity he has been conditioned not to show.

Role B

Please note that we will be offering this role to a black deaf actor only.

Playing age: 30

Gender: Male

Language: British Sign Language (native/fluent)

Ethnicity: Black British-Nigerian/West African

Description: Warm and charismatic, a joker. Active, popular and quick-witted. Seemingly very self-confident with a roguish charm, but hiding a sensitivity he has been conditioned not to show.

HOW TO APPLY

Role A

To apply please send a Spotlight, ProFile link OR headshot together with a CV and a self-tape of the extract at the end of this document in spoken English. Please highlight what level of British Sign Language you can use (if any).

Role B

To apply please send a Spotlight, ProFile link OR headshot together with a CV and a self-tape of the extract at the end of this document in British Sign Language.

Self-tapes should be uploaded to an online platform such as Vimeo / YouTube, with link and password provided.

All applications must be submitted via [this form](#) no later than **5pm on Tuesday 17 November**. All submissions will be considered, with a final selection to be invited to audition online.

GUIDANCE NOTES

Self-taping

Should you require any help with the self-taping, [you can find helpful tips here](#). The footage does not need to be very high quality, using your phone is fine!

Informal Conversation

If you would like an informal conversation ahead of submitting then please contact Christabel Holmes, Associate Producer, on christabel@painesplough.com

Paines Plough believes in including artists from diverse backgrounds and cultures (on the basis of gender, ethnicity, disability, sexual orientation, class and whether they are drama school trained or not) in all our work and all are welcome to apply for any roles advertised.

Where we are casting for a role where a protected characteristic is an occupational requirement we do so in accordance with the Schedule 9, Part 1 of the Equality Act 2010.

If a specific skill, language or accent (spoken/ BSL) is required for the specific role, we will indicate this in the breakdown.

EXTRACT FOR SELF TAPES from SESSIONS by Ifeyinwa Frederick

TUNDE is at his first therapy session. The lines switch between TUNDE's internal monologue and dialogue with his therapist SANDRA.

TUNDE: She's struggling. Properly struggling. I haven't had this since school and I don't know how much longer I can listen to her butcher –

//

TUNDE: It's Adeyemi.

//

TUNDE: Apparently it sounds very exotic. They properly love that word.

//

TUNDE: Yeah, it's Nigerian.

//

TUNDE: She tells me the receptionist on the desk is from Kenya like it's relevant.

//

TUNDE: My first name? Also Nigerian.

[]

TUNDE: Oh, Babatunde. But you can just call me Tunde.

//

They should really consider doing something to this room. It looks as sad as the people that must come here. It's just grey and empty. There's not even a clock on the wall. There's no clock. Fuck, how do I know how long it's been? I can't take out my phone. That's rude. But I wanna be able to know...she definitely just asked me a question.

//

TUNDE: Yeah, yeah it's my first time.

TUNDE *expects SANDRA to say something. She doesn't.*

//

TUNDE: Rah, she's smiling a lot. It's kinda making me want to hit her. Obviously I won't. But why is she smiling so much? It's like she's hoping if she keeps doing it maybe I'll start smiling too. Maybe that's what she wants. Maybe she wants me to smile so she can feel more at ease. Not gonna happen. Still smiling. And the staring. She's properly looking at me. It's fucking uncomfortable. It's like she's searching for something. I wanna tell her to stop but...I swear, the only time anyone tries to hold this much eye contact with me is when...maybe she fancies me. I wouldn't blame her. If I was her I'd fancy me too.